AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Academic Year Calendar

2. INITIATED BY: Trustee Gregory Johnson, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: BOARD ACTION: X

4. BACKGROUND:
Academic calendars for the universities of the University of Maine System are submitted by the Chancellor to the Board of Trustees for the Board’s information each January.

The Board of Trustees delegates to the President of each university the responsibility for the development of the academic calendar, in consultation with faculty and students, which fulfills the educational objectives of that institution and the University System.

The Board believes that the greater the degree of conformity among calendars, the more easily students can move among system institutions and the more efficiently internal operations involving students can function.

The Board of Trustees has stated in its strategic outcomes that the University of Maine System is an integrated system of distinct campuses, centers, and other facilities operating in concert to provide high quality educational undergraduate and graduate opportunities that are accessible, affordable, and relevant to the needs of Maine students, businesses, and communities.

Greater collaboration between the universities will be necessary in the future to optimally position the academic functions of the University of Maine System to fulfill its mission of instruction, research and public service to the people of Maine.

Consistent with these strategic outcomes, the Board of Trustees expects as academic calendars are being prepared for upcoming academic years, there will be a common start and end date for both the fall and spring semesters across all seven universities, with full respect for the different missions of the universities and the demographics of their respective student bodies.
5. TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Board of Trustees directs the presidents, chief academic officers and faculty leadership to develop a common start and end date for the fall and spring semesters at the universities of the University of Maine System. The Board of Trustees directs the universities to make this a fundamental principle in the development of academic calendars beginning in the academic year 2015-16. Further, the Board directs the Chancellor and the System office to provide additional guidelines to the presidents, chief academic officers and faculty leadership as these calendars are being formulated.

09/11/14